<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS</u>
<u>PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:</u>

1. An object-oriented method of collecting information regarding a plurality of target
applications in an application unit, comprising the steps of:

notifying a monitoring device, by a first one of the plurality of target applications,
through an interface, of an identification of the first one of the plurality of target applications;

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target
applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the first one of the plurality of
target applications; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target
applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first
one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target
applications, through the interface, to record a first event of the first one of the plurality of
target applications.

3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

notifying the monitoring device, by a second one of the plurality of target applications,
through the interface, of an identification of the second one of the plurality of target
applications;

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target
applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the second one of the plurality
of target applications; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target
applications, through the interface, to send data corresponding to information regarding
monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second
predetermined destination.

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4. The method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination further comprises:

5   requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to format the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications according to a first predetermined format; and

    requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target
10   applications, through the interface, to send the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to the first predetermined destination through a first predetermined communication protocol.

5. The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of determining
15   whether a combination of the first predetermined format and the first predetermined communication protocol is invalid.

6. The method according to Claim 5, further comprising:

    when the step of determining determines that the combination is invalid, performing
20   at least one of the steps of

        converting the first predetermined format to a first acceptable predetermined format, and

        converting the first predetermined communication protocol to a first acceptable predetermined communication protocol.

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7. The method according to Claim 4, wherein

    the first predetermined format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and

    the first predetermined communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer
30   Protocol (SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.

8. An object-oriented system for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the system comprising:

a first device configured to notify, through an interface, a monitoring device of an identification of the first one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the first device is
5   included in the first one of the plurality of target applications;

a second device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to start monitoring usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the second device is included in the first one of the plurality of target applications; and

a third device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to
10   send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination, wherein the third device is included in the first one of the plurality of target applications.

9. The system according to Claim 8, further comprising
15   a fourth device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to record a first event of the first one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the fourth device is included in the first one of the plurality of target applications.

10. The system according to Claim 8, further comprising:
20   a fifth device configured to notify, through the interface, the monitoring device of an identification of the second one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the fifth device is included in the second one of the plurality of target applications;

a sixth device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to start monitoring usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications, wherein the
25   sixth device is included in the second one of the plurality of target applications; and

a seventh device configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to send data corresponding to information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second predetermined destination, wherein the seventh device is included in the second one of the plurality of target applications.

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11. The system according to Claim 8, wherein the third device is further configured to request, through the interface, the monitoring device to format the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications according to a first predetermined format and to request, through the interface, the monitoring

5   device to send the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to the first predetermined destination through a first predetermined communication protocol.

12. The system according to Claim 11, further comprising an eighth device

10   configured to determine whether a combination of the first predetermined format and the first predetermined communication protocol is invalid.

13. The system according to Claim 12, further comprising a ninth device configured to perform at least one of the steps of converting the first predetermined format to a first

15   acceptable predetermined format, and converting the first predetermined communication protocol to a first acceptable predetermined communication protocol, when the eighth device determines that the combination is invalid.

14. The system according to Claim 11, wherein

the first predetermined format includes one of text format, binary format, comma

20   separated format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and

the first predetermined communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.

25   15. A program product for collecting information regarding a plurality of target applications in an application unit, the program product comprising a computer readable medium embodying program instructions for causing an object-oriented system to perform the steps of:

notifying a monitoring device, by a first one of the plurality of target applications,

30   through an interface, of an identification of the first one of the plurality of target applications;

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requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications; and

5   requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to a first predetermined destination.

16. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the step of

10   requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to record a first event of the first one of the plurality of target applications.

17. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the program instructions

15   cause the system to further perform the steps of:

notifying the monitoring device, by a second one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, of an identification of the second one of the plurality of target applications;

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target

20   applications, through the interface, to start monitoring usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the second one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send data corresponding to information regarding monitored usage of the second one of the plurality of target applications to a second

25   predetermined destination.

18. The program product according to Claim 15, wherein the step of requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of

30   target applications to a first predetermined destination further comprises:

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requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to format the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications according to a first predetermined format; and

requesting the monitoring device, by the first one of the plurality of target applications, through the interface, to send the data corresponding to the information regarding monitored usage of the first one of the plurality of target applications to the first predetermined destination through a first predetermined communication protocol.

19. The program product according to Claim 18, wherein the program instructions cause the system to further perform the step of determining whether a combination of the first predetermined format and the first predetermined communication protocol is invalid.

20. The program product according to Claim 19, wherein:

when the step of determining determines that the combination is invalid, the program instructions cause the system to further perform at least one of the steps of

converting the first predetermined format to a first acceptable predetermined format, and

converting the first predetermined communication protocol to a first acceptable predetermined communication protocol.

21. The program product according to Claim 18, wherein

the first predetermined format includes one of text format, binary format, comma separated format and eXtensible Markup Language (XML) format, and

the first predetermined communication protocol includes one of Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP), File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and local disk.